

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

JOHN SHEPARDSON,

Plaintiff,

v.

U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR
BUNGALOW SERIES IV TRUST, et
al.,

Defendants.

Case No. 23-cv-05497-NC

**PRETRIAL PREPARATION
ORDER**

A pretrial conference is scheduled for April 9, 2025. A jury trial is scheduled to begin on April 28, 2025. This order prepares for the trial.

I. MOTIONS IN LIMINE

The parties must file their motions in limine by March 26, 2025, with responses due by April 2, 2025. No party may file a reply without leave of Court. The total number of pages each party submits for all motions and all responses must not exceed 15 pages.

While it is up to each party to decide how much space to allocate for their motions and how much for their responses, the parties must each stay within the 15-page limit (e.g., a party can allocate 9 pages for their motions and 6 pages for their responses). The Court will hold a hearing on the motions in limine at the pretrial conference.

II. JOINT TRIAL READINESS BINDER

The parties are ordered to provide the Court with two copies of a Joint Trial

1 Readiness Binder. The documents and binder are due by March 26, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. at
2 the San Jose Courthouse. The parties must also file a copy of the Joint Trial Readiness
3 Binders in ECF. The Joint Trial Readiness Binders must each contain an index and copies
4 of filed documents with an ECF header reflecting the item's docket number and filing date,
5 including:

6 **A. Joint Statement of the Case**

7 The parties must submit a jointly agreed-upon summary of the case, not to exceed
8 one page. This statement of the case will be read to the jury at jury selection. If the parties
9 cannot agree on a statement, each party must submit its own one-page statement.

10 **B. Proposed Order Re: Trial Stipulations**

11 The Court expects that the parties will agree to a variety of stipulations regarding
12 the conduct of the trial. A proposed order outlining all such stipulations must be presented
13 to the Court.

14 **C. Witness Lists**

15 The parties must submit an updated list of all witnesses likely to be called at trial
16 (other than solely for impeachment or rebuttal), with a brief statement following each
17 name describing the substance of the testimony to be given and a time estimate of the
18 direct and cross examinations. This information must be presented in chart format and
19 organized by party. Witnesses who will be testifying as experts should be identified as
20 such and included in a separate expert witness list (see below).

21 **D. Expert Witness Lists**

22 The parties must submit an updated list of all expert witnesses with a summary that
23 clearly describes the expert's theories and conclusions, a curriculum vitae, and expert
24 reports. Witnesses not included on the list may be excluded from testifying.

25 **E. Updated Exhibit Lists Annotated with Stipulations and Objections**

26 The parties must submit an updated list of all documents and other items to be
27 offered as exhibits at trial (other than solely for impeachment or rebuttal), with a brief
28 description of each exhibit's contents and the identity of each sponsoring witness. As

1 applicable, the exhibit list must specify whether the parties stipulate to admit the exhibit or
2 the grounds for any objections to the exhibit. The exhibit list must also include an
3 additional column so that the Court can track the date on which each exhibit is admitted.
4 Prior to submitting the list, the parties must meet and confer and attempt to stipulate as to
5 the admissibility of each exhibit. This information must be presented in chart format and
6 organized numerically.

7 **F. Updated List of Discovery Excerpts**

8 The parties must list those excerpts from depositions, interrogatory answers, or
9 responses to requests for admission (other than those solely for impeachment or rebuttal)
10 likely to be used at trial. Prior to submitting the list, the parties must meet and confer and
11 attempt to resolve any disagreements regarding designations or counter-designations. The
12 parties must: (1) identify any remaining legal objections to the excerpts on the list itself,
13 and (2) attach copies of the disputed excerpts in a separate appendix so that the Court can
14 review the disputed materials. The parties must provide a single proposed order with each
15 disputed designation to enable the Court to rule on whether permission to use each excerpt
16 is granted, granted with modification, or denied.

17 **G. Proposed Voir Dire and Jury Questions**

18 The parties must include any proposed questions for the court-directed voir dire and
19 a joint proposed jury questionnaire. If any questions are contested, each party must state
20 the basis for proposing or opposing the question. In addition to including the proposed
21 jury instructions in the binder, the parties must submit the proposed jury instructions in
22 Word format to ncpo@cand.uscourts.gov by March 26, 2025.

23 **H. Proposed Verdict Form**

24 The parties must include a joint proposed verdict form with the questions arranged
25 in a logical sequence. If the parties cannot agree on a verdict form, each party must submit
26 its own proposed form.

27 **III. ELECTRONIC COPIES OF TRIAL DOCUMENTS**

28 The parties must send ncpo@cand.uscourts.gov an electronic copy, in Word format,

of the following documents listed above: (1) Proposed Order Re: Trial Stipulations, and (2) Proposed Order Re: Discovery Excerpts.

IV. STIPULATIONS RE: ADMISSIBILITY

The parties must make a good faith effort to stipulate to exhibits' admissibility. If stipulation is not possible, the parties must make every effort to stipulate to authenticity and foundation absent a legitimate objection.

V. EXHIBITS

Exhibits must be provided to the Court by March 26, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. at the San Jose Courthouse. The parties must provide two sets of exhibits in binders with exhibits marked, tabbed, and indexed. Exhibit binders may be delivered or mailed directly to Chambers in San Jose. The parties must coordinate with the Courtroom Deputy for other delivery.

Each exhibit in the binder must be pre-marked with an exhibit tag placed in the top right corner of the first page of a document. The exhibit tags must be a color other than white. A page of blank trial exhibit tags can be found on the Court's website. If an exhibit is a physical object (rather than a document), the parties should take a picture of the object and include the picture in the binder.

Upon the conclusion of the trial, each party must retain its exhibit through the appellate process. It is each party's responsibility to make arrangements with the Clerk of Court to file the record on appeal.

VI. SCHEDULING OF JURY SELECTION

The parties must notify the Court whether they wish to proceed with a jury or bench trial by March 26, 2025. If the parties decide to proceed with a jury trial, the jury will be selected on April 28, 2025. Opening statements will be on April 28, 2025, after jury selection. The first witness will be called on April 28, 2025.

VII. TRIAL LIMITS

The Court anticipates giving each side a total of eight hours to present its case. This includes all aspects of trial (e.g., objections, examinations) except jury selection.

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS**A. Trial Transcripts**

If a party wishes to order a trial transcript, the order must be placed by March 26, 2025. Instructions on how to file a transcript order using Form CAND-435 are available at: www.cand.uscourts.gov/transcripts.

B. Electronic Equipment

If a party wishes to use electronic equipment or other large items, the party must file a request and proposed order with the Court by March 26, 2025. Equipment not provided by the Court must be tested in the courtroom prior to trial. Arrangements may be made with the Courtroom Deputy, Lili Harrell, at (408) 535-5343.

C. Jury Orientation Video

The Northern District of California requires potential jurors to watch an orientation video before they are sent to the courtroom for voir dire. The Court encourages the parties to watch the orientation video at: <https://www.cand.uscourts.gov/attorneys/unconscious-bias-video-for-potential-jurors/>.

D. Questions from Jury

If the parties select a jury trial, the Court will give an instruction to allow questions from the jury in accordance with Ninth Circuit Model Instruction 1.15 (“Questions to Witnesses by Jurors”).

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: January 16, 2025


 NATHANAEL M. COUSINS
 United States Magistrate Judge